

PLANNING AHEAD

Notes for the Planning and Policy Community

Volume 5, Issue 6

July-August 2002

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Planners Web Resource Pages Go Live

Mark Gmitro & Rich Whittington – CEIWR

ANNOUNCING A NEW PLANNERS TOOL. Planners asked for it. Planners helped scope it! And Planner helped design it!! Now available to all planners, and non-planners for that matter, is a tool that will keep planners informed, knowledgeable (trained), and on top of the latest issues news and other happenings around the Corps. The Planners Resource Web Site was developed by the Institute for Water Resources and is now available over the web at: www.iwr.usace.army.mil/iwr/plannersweb

The Planners Resource Web Site was developed as part of the Corps planning capability task force initiative. This web site provides Corps planners with electronic resources to assist them in their planning activities. The web site provides these resources in easy-to-navigate format. Included in the web site are core documents to assist the beginning planner, an “e-library” of commonly used planning documents, references organized by planning mission area, district and division links, training tools, legislative resources, and useful outside government links. A special feature in the web site is a high powered, state of the art, search engine which can provide near-instantaneous searches of all documents, reports, studies and links referenced in the site. Documents searched can be in PDF, doc, Excel, HTML, and WordPerfect formats and can be searched by title, date, report number, author, and keyword. The team guiding the construction and development of the site includes Harry Kitch (HQ), Brad Fowler (HQ), Russ Rangos(HQ), Roger Setters (LRL), Mark Gmitro (Project Manger) (IWR), Art Bennett (SAJ), James Conley (SPD), and Richard Whittington (Developer)(IWR).

The web site is under continued development to ensure that it can best serve the needs of the planning community. We invite you to use the site and to provide us with input as to how we can make the site better serve your needs. Comments/suggestions/questions are welcome. Please send them to: richard.w.whittington@usace.army.mil. 

Economic and Environmental Analysis Conference 2002: *Balancing Economy and Environment*

Bruce Carlson – CECW-PG

More than 350 water resource professionals attended the *Balancing Economy and Environment* conference held in New Orleans July 16-18, 2002. This was the first-ever joint conference for economists and environmental specialists in Civil Works. The conference provided a forum to discuss current economic and environmental issues and ideas related to the Corps mission areas, with special emphasis on the recently released Environmental Operating Principles and environmental sustainability.

Interactions among economists, environmental scientists and engineers were emphasized at the conference. Attendees represented Corps districts, divisions, headquarters and research labs from around the country. There were also more than 50 participants from other agencies, universities, and the private and non-profit sectors.

Approximately 150 presentations were given at the three-day conference in a series of plenary and breakout sessions. The split format allowed for broad issues to be addressed with the full group, and specialized topics to be covered in smaller settings. These presentations are now available for viewing on the internet: <http://www.usace.army.mil/civilworks/cecwp/eande2002/> We are still in the process of posting material so please check back later.

Presentations included reports of research findings, methodological advances, lessons learned, case studies, and discussions of current and potential future issues facing the Corps. Presenters were encouraged to consider the full range of Corps activities including problem identification, plan formulation and evaluation, engineering and construction, operations and maintenance, and adaptive management and monitoring. The sessions are summarized below:

PLENARY SESSIONS:

- Keynote speaker Major General Robert Griffin presented Leadership perspectives on Balancing Economy and the Environment, plus other current Corps initiatives
- Dr. G. Edward Dickey (Former ASA-CW) and Dr. Stephen Parker (NAS) presented broad perspectives on the Corps role in balancing economy and environment
 - Case study presentations of programs balancing economy and environment
 - A public involvement demonstration: Large Group Response technique (with results)
 - Dr. Jim Johnson discussed the Planning Capabilities Initiatives
 - Ecosystem Restoration Partnership panel
 - Project Review Lessons Learned panel
 - Future Directions in Planning by Dr. Jim Johnson

CONCURRENT SESSIONS - PRESENTED IN EIGHT TRACKS:

- Environmental Sustainability – NED/NER formulation
- Quantifying and Qualifying Environmental Benefits
- NER Risk and Uncertainty, Monitoring, and Adaptive Management
- Ecosystem Restoration Planning, Engineering and Construction Issues
- Ecosystem Restoration Research Areas: Coastal, Stream, Wetland, Urban, Sedimentation and Regional Sediment Management, and Research Programs
- Navigation Economics: Coastal and Inland
- Flood Damage Reduction Economics; and Other Evaluation Issues

Questions regarding the conference should be directed to the conference co-chairs: Bruce Carlson (202-761-4230) or Mark Colosimo (202-761-4250). [📖](#)

Ecosystem Restoration Conference and Partnering Session

Mark Ziminske & Bernard Hargrave – CENWS & Russ Reed – CESAJ


On June 18 - 20, 2002 Seattle District hosted a three day ecosystem restoration conference and partnering session along with NWD, NWW, NWK, NWO, NWP, SAJ and the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) in Seattle, Washington. Over 100 participants attended the conference, including various state and federal resource agencies, counties and municipal governments, non-governmental organizations, and academia. Stu Appelbaum, Russ Reed, Mike Ornella, and Richard Punnet of the Jacksonville District Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) team and John Ogden along with Tom Teets from the SFWMD (local sponsor) shared their experiences in planning the ecosystem restoration program for the Everglades. Mark Ziminske, Bernie Hargrave, and Lisa Sievers of the Seattle District led the effort to organize the conference.

The workshop included presentations on the Everglades Restoration Program: plan formulation, engineering and scientific studies, public outreach and communication, sponsor role, and alternative plan modeling. Presentations given by various NWD participants represented a broad range of ecosystem restoration projects and programs in the Northwest. Break out groups were then used to discuss key ecosystem restoration challenges and lessons learned. A partnering session between the Corps and the SFWMD was held to discuss capabilities and technical resource needs for the Everglades Restoration Program. Finally, members from Jacksonville District and the SFWMD met one-on-one with local ecosystem restoration study team members to discuss issues related to the programming, planning, science, and outreach necessary to set up a successful large, basin-wide ecosystem restoration program.

The conference/partnering session was highly successful in sharing knowledge and lessons learned concerning how to develop effective teams, to conduct large complex planning studies, to build consensus among stakeholders, and to construct large, sustainable ecosystem restoration projects. A record of the meeting and copies of the information presented at the conference are available on our civil works homepage at: <http://www.nws.usace.army.mil/> [📖](#)

Memorandum of Understanding with Ducks Unlimited

Ellen Cummings -- CECW-PD


On 22 July 2002 Mr. Dominic Izzo, Principal Deputy Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) and Mr. Don Young, Executive Vice President of Ducks Unlimited (DU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between our organizations. The purpose of the MOU is to provide a foundation for collaboration related to protection, restoration, and/or management of selected wetlands and associated uplands of mutual interest to DU and the Corps. The MOU encourages you to seek opportunities to cooperate in efforts to promote the conservation of regionally significant biological diversity in accordance with applicable law through projects or programs related to the conservation, understanding, management, and sustainable use of the Nation's land and water resources. However, similar to other MOU, this does not afford DU any preferential treatment and all activities undertaken with DU must be in accordance with existing authorities and regulations. The MOU has been posted on the planning web page at <http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwp/>. If you have any questions about this MOU please contact Ellen Cummings, ellen.m.cummings@usace.army.mil. (Ellen Cummings / 202-761-4558) 

FY2003 Prospect Courses

John Buckley CEHNC

A wide variety of technical and professional development courses are available through the USACE Proponent Sponsored Engineer Corps Training (PROSPECT) Program. Information about the FY03 program can be found online at: <http://pdsc.usace.army.mil>. This web site contains additional information on the classroom program as well as on the distance learning program.

To register for any of these courses, first discuss this with your supervisor and then contact your local training coordinator. Your training coordinator can guide you through the registration process and inform you of any deadlines applicable in your organization as well as all local procedures that you must follow to register.


A number of PROSPECT courses are still available for FY02. Information about these courses can be found on the website address listed above. Some courses are currently full while some still have spaces available. If a course is full, you may request to be put on a waiting list and you will be informed when a space becomes available. POC for this message is John Buckley, John.P.Buckley@HND01.usace.army.mil. Telephone: 256-895-7431 

Updated Environmental Desk Reference

Lynn Martin – CEIWR


The updated Environmental Desk Reference is now available for browsing over the internet. The summary profiles of the environmental statutes, the text of the environmentally related Executive Orders, and the two cross referencing tables are each in a single file. This will allow you to search all of the statutes, etc., on a single keyword or phrase using your web browser's "find" command. The entire document is available in Adobe Acrobat .pdf format as well. The pdf files may be downloaded as individual files or as one ZIP archive.

<http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwp/envdref2/index.htm>

[Editors note: Both versions of the Reference are linked to from this page; links to the new one (in pdf only) are below the line and those to the old one (in html only) are above the line.] 

Instructions for Contributors to Planning Ahead


This newsletter is designed to improve the communication among all the planners and those we work with throughout the Corps. We hope that future editions will have mostly information and perspective from those of you on the front lines in the districts. We hope that these notes become a forum for you to share your experiences to help all of us learn from each other. We can't afford to reinvent the wheel in each office. We welcome your thoughts, questions, success stories, and bitter lessons so that we can share them on these pages. The articles should be short (2-3 paragraphs) except in some cases where you just have to say more.

- Use MS WORD, if at all possible
- Use "normal" style
- Use Times New Roman font, 11 point
- All text should be left justified with start of each paragraph indented by one tab stop.
- Each article should have short title with only initial letter of each word capitalized
- Following each title should be author's name and organization
- Last line should be contact information – phone number or e-mail address 

Subscribing to Planning Ahead

To subscribe or to our distribution list, send an e-mail message to majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil with no subject line and only a single line of text in the message body.

That single line of text should be: "subscribe ls-planningahead"

To obtain a 'help' file, send only the word 'help' in the text of the message (nothing in the subject line) and address it to majordomo@lst.usace.army.mil 

Submissions Deadline

The deadline for material for the next issue is **20 SEPTEMBER 2002**.

Planning Ahead is an unofficial publication authorized under AR 25-30. It is published by the Planning Division, Directorate of Civil Works, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 20 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20314-1000,
<http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwp/news/news.htm>

The staff of *Planning Ahead* is Brad Fowler as editor, writer and chief bottle washer and Harry Kitch as publisher. Please continue to send in all those good articles and information to Brad. TEL 202-761-4231, FAX 202-761-1972, or email kirby.b.fowler@usace.army.mil. Harry Kitch can be reached at TEL 202-761-4574 or FAX 202-761-1972 or e-mail Harry.E.Kitch@usace.army.mil. 